

February 5, 1991 LB 32, 69

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Mr. Speaker, I would move for the advancement of LB 32 to E & R for engrossment.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard the motion to advance. All those in favor say aye. Opposed no. It is advanced. We'll proceed to General File and LB 69.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 69 was introduced by Senator Chambers. (Read title.) The bill was introduced January 10, referred to Judiciary. It was considered yesterday by the Legislature, Mr. President. Committee amendments were adopted at that time. I do have amendments pending.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers, do you want to give us a brief five-minute synopsis of the bill so that we know where we are at on this, and then we will go ahead and proceed with the amendments.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, it may not really take five minutes. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that financial aid programs based on need, which are created by federal law or state law, will be available to all students. Once they qualify, based on the criteria in the law creating these programs, there is no rule or regulation that the university can adopt or enforce that would require such students to give up any of this aid as a condition to participating in intercollegiate athletics. Senator Beutler is going to offer an amendment with which I agree. So rather than say a lot of things now that may have to be repeated in conjunction with his amendment, that is about all that I will say unless somebody has a question about what the bill does. But in a nutshell, Senator Hefner, it is to prevent the university from requiring any student who qualifies for need-based financial aid to give that aid up in order to participate in any intercollegiate athletic programs, the philosophy being that academics are more important than athletics and the university should not be in a position to make these young people choose between academics and athletics.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk, an amendment on the desk.